

SPECIAL  
EDITION

# The Northfield Press

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Northfield — East Northfield — West Northfield — Northfield Farms — South Vernon — Vernon — Mount Hermon — Gill — Hinsdale — Ashuelot — Winchester  
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## Terrible Storm Strikes Northfield Gould Hall Scene of Destruction and Death Many Trees Destroyed -- Property Damaged

Following four days of incessant heavy rains and oncoming floods in the Connecticut valley, Northfield was visited by a storm of hurricane force on Wednesday afternoon that left the community paralyzed in the damage to property, the destruction of its beautiful trees and resultant death of two students of the Seminary under tragic circumstances.

The hurricane which had come up from southern waters, struck the New England coast and sweeping across the state reached Northfield about five o'clock. Its force did not abate until after eight o'clock and in that interim comes the story of disaster and death.

Seated at the tables for supper, in the dining room of Gould Hall, were the students who occupied the dormitories in that fine building. The dining room was in the forward end of the ell off the main building on the second floor. About 6:20 o'clock one of the cyclonic winds, with its twist, toppled the two large brick chimneys, the one at the north from the kitchen, and the one at the south from the fireplace. The skylight was sent reeling to the ground while the fireplace stack went through onto the metal lath ceiling and all fell to the dining room below, killing instantly two of the young ladies and seriously injuring three others while many suffered minor bruises. The north chimney crashed through the roof and floor of the kitchen piazza to the ground below.

Stunned, school officials found the town without telephone communication, and with all major highways blocked. The injured were taken to Betsy Moody infirmary where Dr. Harriet Hardy, school physician, gave emergency treatment.

Townpeople and school employees worked faithfully and efficiently and carried the girls from Gould Hall to the hospital, where the utmost care and attention was given to each. Later all the girls were taken from Gould Hall and placed in other dormitories and homes, where they remained for a couple of days.

The dead are: Audrey Lucas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett R. Lucas of Yonkers, N. Y., and Norma Stockburger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Stockburger of Meriden, Conn. Those who were treated by Dr. Hardy and later taken to the Brattleboro Memorial hospital, as roads were opened were: Mary Kidder of Fayville, Lucile Carle of Belle Harbor, N. Y., and Eleanor Shedd of North Ferrisburg, Vt. Others received at the infirmary for minor causes were: Elizabeth Nelson, Harriet Hume, Estelle Kipp, Olive Kingsbury, Virginia Starr, Ruth Turner, Betsey Whitestone, Margaret Wolfe, and Frances Yeames.

Seminary authorities did all possible to help and succor and Miss Wilson the principal, made public bulletins on the situation, while Mr. Roberts, the executive secretary, virtually chopped his way over the roads to Greenfield with workmen to reach the outside world and communicate with parents and trustees of the school. The next day air mail communications were sent to all families having a girl at the schools, with information of the calamity.

It was a grief stricken school as hearts turned to God in the hour of trial. Gould Hall is the largest dormitory on the Seminary campus and was constructed some twenty years ago as the gift of Helen Miller Gould. It was thoroughly modern and of substantial build of brick and stone, three stories in height. The damaged portion of the building will be immediately re-built.

The bodies of the dead students were removed after Dr. Stetson, the coroner, had given permission, to Kidder's Funeral Parlor, to await the arrival of the relatives. Following the tragic event the school proceeded to "carry on" in its program and classes were maintained.

Meanwhile the storm continued and the waters of the river rose, flooding the meadows and lowlands, to the height of the flood of 1927. Schell bridge road to the station was closed Wednesday at four o'clock and on Thursday morning Bennett Meadow road to Greenfield and the road at Wana-maker Pond were impassable. The new Winchester highway was flooded at Winchester and Northfield was separated from the rest of the country, save by the Plains road detour to Millers Falls on Route 63.

The Red Cross disaster committee was called into service by County Chairman John W. Haigis and all preparations were immediately made by the two members in town at the time, Mr. Carr and Mr. Hoehn, with Mr. Fitt of the county board. All health matters were in the hands of Dr. Lee, the town health physician and the local doctors. All people in threatened localities were informed of the situation and thru the radio, visitors and sightseers were urged to keep out of the town as congestion hindered the workers, a hundred of whom were engaged by the town, fifty by the state, and some

by the W. P. A. So well did crews work that all main thoroughfares were made passable by Thursday night.

At the Tenney Farms many men were held in readiness for any emergency for two days and nights, to remove cattle and other livestock if needed. The high water did not reach the dairy.

At Mount Hermon the gale laid waste the avenue of pines on the road approaching the campus. The beauty that was once Hermon's had gone in a brief time and desolation was apparent. The beautiful trees had disappeared as if by magic. It will take years to renew the splendor. The homes of Harry Holton and Professor Hatch were damaged and a garage was crushed with a car inside. The beautiful rose window in Memorial chapel was badly damaged.

Cathedral Pines, where Virginia Camp for New York girls hold away during the summer, was pretty well destroyed. Fearful damage was done in the woodlands, where the summer colony resides on Rustic Ridge, Mountain Park and the Highlands. A great many trees were down and some homes damaged. Louise Andrews Salvation Army camp was a mess of jungle, having been severely attacked. No idea of the real amount of damage done can be had until fallen trees are removed and repairs figured. The beautiful grove back of Gould Hall has been destroyed.

It is freely admitted that of the towns in Franklin County, Orange was the worst afflicted by flood and that Northfield suffered most by the hurricane. Main street, Northfield, presented a sickening sight with about fifty per cent of its trees down and a majority of its homes damaged. At the Northfield Hotel many fine trees, particularly on the south side were uprooted. Acres and acres of woodland is in desolation as if some mighty hand had applied the scythe and cut it down.

Northfield, without electricity, telephone, telegraph, railroad or bus service was isolated—but fortunately there was sufficient stores of foods and milk aplenty.

In the little over two hours that the hurricane struck, from Stearns Garage up through the whole length of Main street, the twisting gusts, with terrific velocity, ripped up and cracked off the trees along the highway and on private lands to about fifty percent of their number. "Northfield the Beautiful" looked more like a scarred battlefield, with which many are familiar. Telephone and telegraph wires came down and we were cut off without communication to outside places. Electric wires also fell and parted at many places and lights, power and service ended—A new chapter in local history began to be written on Wednesday, September 21, at five o'clock.

It is a difficult task to enumerate the amount of damage done but a "check-off" of residents, up and down the streets reveal some interesting facts: The home of Mrs. Charles Warner was badly damaged by falling tree and chimney; the Unitarian church where chimney goes through roof to auditorium; the headquarters of Youth Hostel where two large trees tear away parts of the structure; the Wall home where falling chimney break and destroy the roof; the homes of Dr. Elliot W. Brown, Edward M. Morgan, Frank W. Kellogg, Thomas Parker, Donald Finch, the small house of the Keet estate, were damaged by falling trees; shingles, roofing and slate torn from the Congregational church; the Forman house, the Reed home, the Haskell house, the Mason home, the Johnson house, the Martineau house, the Mrs. Allen house, and many others, not now recalled.

Trees fell heavily on the Sauter house, the Bittinger home, Revell Hall, and several houses in the summer resident section. Many garages suffered also by falling trees. Chimney were blown down on the Nims house, the Glutney home, and several others. At the Morgan Garage plate glass windows were shattered. A survey of the Ridge section shows some houses damaged and a report of which is being sent out to all cottage owners.

Crews of men every where are engaged in cutting and clearing. The utilities have several crews out on the wires and every effort is being made to restore service. Rail and mail service is being rapidly improved. As we go to press, the roads are all open leading out of Northfield except the Schell bridge road.

Franklin county not only suffered heavy damages last week to its highways, utilities, and buildings, but also counts a severe loss in its fruit crop.

During the course of the wind and flood four of the six tobacco barns on the Meadow with their gathered crops collapsed and are a total loss. At the Bolton place in West Northfield a newly constructed silo collapsed before the wind. Without electricity, local garages contrived to set up an old automobile near their gasoline pumps to furnish power by a belt from a wheel to run the same.

Guards were posted at the Seminary grounds, and requests made by radio station WHAI that the curious sightseers should avoid Northfield. The local Red Cross acted in

### Fine Spirit Displayed At Northfield Seminary

There has come from the office of the Northfield Schools, a statement by the executive secretary, Albert E. Roberts, which has reached by air mail, the home-folks of all students. Because it displays the fine spirit and noble character of the young ladies, and the capacity of its management, we are taking the liberty of quoting, because of interest to our readers.

After a day of regular events, toward the evening shadows, from the south strikes a hurricane, with a new experience and a saddening result. That result was the passing in sudden death of two young friends and the injury of many others. But we quote from the letter of Mr. Roberts:

Doctor Hardy handled the situation magnificently with the assistance of volunteer physicians and nurses, who supplemented the good work of our own nurses at Betsy Moody, caring for the injured.

Splendid work has been done by everyone including the students. Of course all of the 140 girls and teachers were immediately removed from Gould hall.

The school program has been continued without interruption. Miss Wilson has again been put to a most harrowing test and has again displayed her marvelous qualities of leadership. Her chapel talk on the morning following the disaster will never be forgotten and it steadied and encouraged everyone. Both students and faculty have responded splendidly and aside from the evidence of destruction in the fallen trees, a visitor to the Seminary campus could not see that there was anything out of the usual going on. Everyone is to be commended on meeting a great disaster with brave Christian courage and a spirit of co-operativeness.

A long list of names might well be put on the honor roll of those who have so splendidly cooperated with Miss Wilson, Doctor Hardy and the administrative committee. The townpeople were tirelessly kind and co-operative in offering their homes, their services, and their cars.

The telephone company, the radio, the post office authorities and others were extremely helpful in their services.

Repairs are already going forward on Gould hall and, by using the lower dining hall while the upper hall is being repaired, it is thought that we can resume complete house-keeping operations in Gould hall late next week.

The damage to the schools cannot be estimated as yet, but it will run into a high figure. There is no insurance to cover tornado and hurricane loss.

### The Reason

The "Press" hindered last week by circumstances beyond its control, did not appear on the usual day. Copy in the mails undeliverable, roads closed to traffic and the flooding of Athol, where the paper is printed, are the reasons which caused the delay. However, subscribers will receive the two editions in this mailing.

the matter and a State Police officer was assigned to duty here.

Among local folks marooned during the flood were: A. Gordon Moody who was returning from Boston with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ambert G. Moody. They were at Leominster. Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Wright, returning from a trip to Boston, to enter their daughter June at Boston university were held up at Gardner, and Dr. and Mrs. Dean, returning from a vacation, were also marooned at Gardner. A telegram sent by them Tuesday reached the Editor on Saturday.

Round Top on the Seminary campus, the resting place of Dwight L. Moody suffered no damage by the storm. The trees are firm.

### County Red Cross Has Its Quota; Set At \$4300

The Franklin county quota of the Red Cross relief fund of \$500,000 has been set at \$4300, according to word received from Norman H. Davis of the National Red Cross by Frank L. Boyden, county chapter chairman.

Contributions for the relief fund may be sent to Leland M. Cairns, treasurer of the chapter, at the Franklin County Trust Co., John W. Haigis, disaster relief chairman stated.

Chairman Davis' telegram follows in part: "Red Cross has taken charge of relief work for disaster sufferers through flood and hurricane stricken areas in New England and New York state. A total of 40,000 men, women and children completely dependent on Red Cross for temporary food, clothing, shelter and medical care."

"Later those disaster victims unable to aid themselves will look to Red Cross for repair and rebuilding of their homes. In order to carry out this relief task, Red Cross is appealing to the public for minimum relief fund of \$500,000. National headquarters will contribute \$25,000."

On Wednesday Mrs. B. D. Thomas from National Headquarters accompanied by Miss Long, secretary of the county chapter, visited Northfield to call upon members of the disaster committee and survey the field.

### Commended Highly

Professional tree workers were ready to say they had never seen such destruction of trees of all species, both as to numbers crippled or destroyed within a given area and as to extent throughout the entire county as during the storm of the past week.

We in Northfield love our trees, and feel with Joyce Kilmer that "only God can make a tree." The recent action and appropriation of the Village Improvement society to aid in the setting out of trees along our streets is to be commended highly.

### Need Storm Aid

Selectmen Dunnell and Fisher went to Greenfield last Saturday afternoon to attend a meeting of all Selectmen in the county, called by the County Commissioners, to ascertain storm damages in the various communities, particularly on roads and bridges. A representative of the Department of Public Works was present. The need of assistance was voiced and Congressman Treadway, who was also present, immediately left for Washington in the hope of securing some Federal assistance.

### Photos Wanted

The Editor of the "Press" will be glad to have some good clear photos, any size, showing storm damage for reproduction. Send copy marked with name of subject and name of person making photograph. Those accepted will be published.

### Summer Colony Roads Opened By Red Cross

That section of our summer resident district which is still occupied by many people in the Highlands and Mountain Park, had its roads opened through the efforts of the Red Cross disaster committee on Monday. A large crew of men, paid through an emergency fund, have made passable the road leading to the Ridge. When more funds are available the clearing will continue to the North Lane.

It is in this territory that the hurricane struck with fearful fury and shattered the large grove and mountain hillsides, the property of Northfield Seminary. Here, also, was crushed a garage from the weight of falling trees, a small cottage destroyed with the weight of eight trees and another with the weight of two immense pines upon it.

### He Planted The Trees

Visitors returning to Northfield will note the changed appearance of Main street in the beautiful elms which have adorned both sides of the highway. Many of their number have fallen in the past week. They were set out in 1815 by Thomas Power, who, born in Boston, came to Northfield in 1812 to establish a residence. He started the public library and effected many local improvements. He loved the town and its people, but business conditions compelled his return to Boston in 1816 where he thereafter lived and died. His name will ever be remembered in appreciation of his great regard for trees and in making this town, really "Northfield, the beautiful."

### Injured In Fall

Mrs. Charles S. Cregar of Richmond Hill, N. Y., a sister of the Misses Maud and Amy Hamilton, who has spent the summer with members of her family at their cottage on Rustic Ridge, suffered a bad fall while closing the house last Saturday. Neighbors were summoned by her daughter, and she was immediately taken to Dr. Wright's office, and then removed to the Farren Memorial hospital where it was found that she had sustained a broken arm and dislocation of the shoulder. The sympathy of many friends has been expressed.

The meeting called to consider the plan of the committee for the high school improvements and discuss the proposition at Alexander hall Monday evening, the 26th, was postponed indefinitely owing to lack of attendance, and lack of facilities to use the hall for a showing of the plans.

The flares in the western sky seen by many in town Wednesday evening was probably the fire which consumed the large building on Whitcomb Summit.

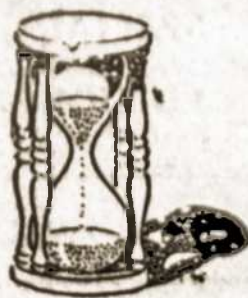
Because of the devastation and the need of immediate rehabilitation, the State Republican finance campaign committee has postponed its drive locally until Oct. 5 when contacts will be made.

Photographers and news men from various daily newspapers visited the town frequently during the past week. One automobile carried a boat so they might travel flooded districts. Several airplanes were seen following the river course, taking pictures.

All radio broadcasts are on eastern standard time and to those enabled to use their radios it is quite confusing, to get the time of programs, as this state is still on daylight saving.

Time will slip back into its pristine groove for Northfield residents at 2 o'clock Sunday morning when daylight saving officially comes to an end, after having been continued another week by the Governor's proclamation.





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Northfield, Massachusetts

Schools re-opened on Monday after the enforced vacation of several days from the effects of the storm.

The death of Dr. Willard H. Pierce of Bernardston who passed away last Saturday at the age of 75 brings sorrow to many in this vicinity to whom he has given a loyal service in his profession.

The inability of Blanche Yurko to reach Northfield last Saturday evening for her appearance in the

Seminary course caused a postponement which will be announced later. However, Seminary students crowded Silverthorne hall for an evening of readings and entertainment which was most interesting.

A son, Ronald Stephen, was born to Postmaster and Mrs. Lawrence Quinlan at the Brattleboro hospital on Tuesday.

The new Latchis Memorial theatre in Brattleboro has been

visited by many from this town. The official opening exercises will be held soon.

Mrs. W. R. Moody entertained the officers and teachers of the Trinitarian Sunday school Monday evening.

Many sea gulls were seen during the past week heading south along the river. They had been blown inland from the coast during the hurricane.

### Seniors Now Have Seats In The Front Row

The traditional seating day exercises were observed at Northfield Seminary on Wednesday morning, Sept. 21, when the 127 seniors of the school were given the front row seats in Russell Sage chapel with all the honor due them from the rest of the students. Barbara Allen of Manchester, N. H., president of the class, led the senior procession.

With their president, Betty Phelps of Upper Montclair, N. J., as their leader, the junior class of 118 girls, dressed in white and wearing their class ribbons of coral and silver, marched to their assigned places after all the underclassmen had been seated. At the first note of "The Priest's March" the entire school arose to honor the seniors as they entered the chapel.

Miss Mira B. Wilson, principal, announced that the class hymn is "Fight the Good Fight," which was written in 1863 by the Rev. John S. B. Monsell. The class has chosen as its motto, *Actae non Verbae*, or "Deeds not Words." As is customary during the seating day chapel period, Miss Wilson read a list of twenty-five girls who received places on the scholarship honor list for last semester. Thirteen of these girls are still attending the Seminary while the other twelve are now enrolled at various colleges.

The girls who are still at Northfield include Jeanne Bassett of Staten Island, N. Y.; Anne Buckley of Ansonia, Ct.; Barbara Chapin of Southbridge; Eleanor Gaines of Easton, Pa.; Winifred Kemp of Montclair, N. J.; Deborah McNair of San Francisco, Calif.; Marjorie Meadows of North Wilmington; Jacqueline Pinney of Longmeadow; Laurene Roberts of Watertown, N. Y.; Helen Ross of Middlebury, Vt.; Marihelen Sherman of Flushing, N. Y.; Faye Stewart of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Mary A. Wright of Northfield.

Nancy Edmondson of Mamaroneck, N. Y., the chairman of the Campus Government association, welcomed the new students to the school, and asked for cooperation so that the Campus Governing group could best serve the students and the school. Immediately after chapel, the seniors and juniors gathered outside the building for step-singing. With their enthusiasm undiminished by the downpour in which they stood, the two classes sang to each other, to their advisers, and to Miss Wilson. The seniors finally settled the choral competition with the song which has quelled the juniors year after year. It ends: "At last we are seated as seniors. We sit in the very front row. We chaperone even the juniors. When they to the city do go!"

Local Republicans are invited to attend the big rally to be held in Greenfield on Friday evening, Oct. 7, in Washington hall when leading figures on the party's state ticket will be present and be heard from.

There are many cottages still occupied by our summer residents and despite the damage on Rustic Ridge, none are more cheerful than Mr. and Mrs. Doremus, Mrs. Otte and Rev. Mr. Phelps. Several could not get down or up with their autos until the roads were opened.

Robert Woodruff, son of Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Woodruff of New York, N. J., was at the home of Mrs. E. F. Howard last week, during which time he has surveyed the damage among the cottages on the Rustic Ridge and reported to his father who is president of the association.

Mrs. Russell Dargis will give an illustrated lecture at Metcalf Memorial chapel in Warwick on Japan, next Sunday evening.

The drunk in the gutter is a pitiful sight. However, he is much safer than the one behind the steering wheel.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday school will meet at ten o'clock for the study of the Scriptures. At 11 o'clock the regular preaching service when the choir will sing "Morning Star" and "Hear Us, O Saviour"; sermon subject, "The Ability of God." At 2:30 Sunday school at the Farms, followed by a worship service. Meeting in the Barber district at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Doolittle. At 7, the Senior Endeavor; at 8, the regular preaching service.

Wednesday at 3, the Women's Missionary society will meet with Mrs. Carne. Also on Wednesday, the postponed association meeting at Orange.

Thursday at 7:30, weekly prayer service, followed by choir rehearsal.

Sunday school rally next week.

### SOUTH CHURCH

Sunday, 9:45, church school; 10:45, church worship. The subject will be "In spite of present opposition the Liberal Religion is the coming religion."

A special message of vital importance to the local church will be given from Dr. Frederick M. Eliot, president of the American Unitarian association, relative to the church's loss through the hurricane. All persons interested in the church should hear it.

### The Grange

Eleven members of Northfield Grange and thirty members from Brattleboro Grange attended Neighbors' Night at the Vernon Grange recently and put on a program. Northfield members led in community singing, charades, etc. Mrs. Gertrude Gibson rendered vocal solos, Miss Florence Hale, piano solos, and Mrs. Carroll Miller and Mrs. Edward Morse readings. Tuesday evening of this week as Booster Night and a business meeting was held, a musical program rendered and a reception given to the school teachers of the town.

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The Vernon Ladies will give a chicken pie supper in the vestry of the Union church, Vernon, on Thursday evening, Oct. 20, and ask that their Northfield friends make a note of the date.

The 25th annual planning conference of the Massachusetts Federation of Planning Boards will be held in Springfield Friday and Saturday of this week (Sept. 30 and Oct. 1).